



President Biden to apologize for 150-year Indian boarding school policy

By GRAHAM LEE BREWER

Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — President Joe Biden is expected to formally apologize on Friday for the country's role in the Indian boarding school system, which devastated the lives of generations of Indigenous children and their ancestors.

"I would never have guessed in a million years that something like this would happen," said Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland, a member of the Pueblo of Laguna. "It's a big deal to me. I'm sure it will be a big deal to all of Indian Country."

Shortly after becoming the first Native American to lead the Interior, Haaland launched an investigation into the boarding school system, which found that at least 18,000 children, some as young as 4, were taken from their parents and forced to attend schools that sought to assimilate them, in an effort to dispossess their tribal nations of land. It also documented nearly 1,000 deaths and 74 gravesites associated with the more than 500 schools.



Russell Eagle Bear, with the Rosebud Sioux Reservation Tribal Council, talks to U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland during a meeting about Native American boarding schools at Sinte Gleska University in Mission, S.D., on Oct. 15, 2022.

Associated Press

Continued on Page 2

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President Biden to apologize for 150-year Indian boarding school policy

Continued from Front

No president has ever formally apologized for the forced removal of Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children — an element of genocide as defined by the United Nations — or any other aspect of the U.S. government's decimation of Indigenous peoples.

During the second phase of its investigation, the Interior conducted listening sessions and gathered the testimony of survivors. One of the recommendations of the final report was an acknowledgement of and apology for the boarding school era. Haaland said she took that to Biden, who agreed that it was necessary. Haaland, whose grandparents were forced to attend a boarding school, said she was honored to play a role, along with her staff, in helping make the apology a reality. Haaland will join Biden during his first diplomatic visit to a tribal nation as president on Friday as he delivers his speech. "It will be one of the high points of my entire life," she said.

It's unclear what, if any, action will follow the apology.



President Joe Biden delivers remarks on lowering the cost of prescription drugs, at NHTI Concord Community College, Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024, in Concord, N.H.

Associated Press

The Department of Interior is still working with tribal nations to repatriate the remains of children on federal lands, and many tribes are still at odds with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which has refused to follow the federal law regulating the return of Native American remains when it comes to those still buried at Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania.

"President Biden's apology is a profound moment for Native people across this country," Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. said in a statement to The Associated Press.

"Our children were made to live in a world that erased their identities, their culture and upended their spoken language," Hoskin said in his statement. "Oklahoma was home to 87 boarding schools in which thousands of our Cherokee children attended. Still today, nearly every Cherokee Nation citizen somehow feels the impact."

Friday's apology could lead to further progress for tribal nations still pushing for continued action from the federal government, because it's an acknowledgement of past wrongs left unrectified, something "known and buried," said

Melissa Nobles, Chancellor of MIT and author of "The Politics of Official Apologies."

"These things have value because it validates the experiences of the survivors and acknowledges they've been seen and we heard you, and also there's a lot of historical evidence to suggest this happened," Nobles said.

In Canada, a country with a similar history of subjugating Indigenous peoples and forcing their children into boarding schools for assimilation, an apology from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in 2017 was followed by the establishment of a truth and reconciliation process and the injection of billions of dollars into First Nations to deal with the devastation left by the government's policies.

No such commission exists in the U.S. A bill to establish a truth and reconciliation process was introduced last year by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, but it remains in the Senate. Pope Francis issued a historic apology in 2022 for the Catholic Church's cooperation with Canada's "catastrophic" policy of Indigenous residential schools, saying the forced assimilation of Native people into Christian society

destroyed their cultures, severed families and marginalized generations.

"I am deeply sorry," Francis said to school survivors and Indigenous community members gathered in Alberta. He called the school policy a "disastrous error" that was incompatible with the Gospel. "I humbly beg forgiveness for the evil committed by so many Christians against the Indigenous peoples," Francis said. In 1993, President Bill Clinton signed a law apologizing to Native Hawaiians for the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy a century prior. In 2008, Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd formally apologized to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for his government's past policies of assimilation, including the forced removal of children. New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern made a similar concession in 2022.

Hoskin said he is grateful to both Biden and Haaland for leading the effort to reckon with the country's role in a dark chapter for Indigenous peoples, but he emphasized that the apology is just "an important step, which must be followed by continued action." □



A United Airlines jetliner glides in for a landing at Denver International Airport on Jan. 16, 2024, in Denver.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration said Thursday it is launching a broad investigation into the state of competition in air travel, including the effect

of mergers and joint ventures between airlines. The investigation is being handled by the Justice Department's antitrust division and the Transportation De-

The Biden administration is launching an investigation of competition in air travel

partment. The administration has successfully blocked three airline deals in the past four years, and President Joe Biden has criticized airlines for charging "junk fees." However, the timing of the Thursday's announcement — less than three months before Biden leaves office, and with the race to succeed considered a toss-up — casts uncertainty over the fate of the investigation. Four airlines dominate the U.S. airline industry — United,

Delta, American and Southwest. They are the product of mergers that eliminated several major airlines. The airline industry says that there is plenty of competition, however. The industry points to Transportation Department data that shows average U.S. fares have generally declined for many years, although that has been partly offset by higher fees for baggage, premium seats and other items. In the second quarter of this

year, the average ticket was \$382, according to the government figures. That is down from \$404 in the same quarter of last year and \$438 in the same period of 2019, before the coronavirus pandemic.

The departments said they will also look into the way air travel is priced and sold, and airline frequent-flyer programs.

The agencies said they will take public comments until Dec. 23. □

The EPA imposes stricter standards to protect children from exposure to lead paint

By **MATTHEW DALY**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two weeks after setting a nationwide deadline for removal of lead pipes, the Biden administration is imposing strict new limits on dust from lead-based paint in older homes and child-care facilities.

A final rule announced Thursday by the Environmental Protection Agency sets limits on lead dust on floors and window sills in pre-1978 residences and child-care facilities to levels so low they cannot be detected.

Paint that contains lead was banned in 1978, but more than 30 million American homes are believed to still contain it, including nearly 4 million homes where children under the age of 6 live. Lead paint can chip off when it deteriorates or is disturbed, especially during home remodeling or renovation.

"There is no safe level of lead," said Michal Freedhoff, EPA's assistant administrator for chemical safety and pollution prevention. The new rule will bring the United States "closer to eradicating lead-based paint hazards from homes and child care facilities once and for all," she said.

The EPA estimates the new rule will reduce the lead exposures of up to 1.2 million people per year, including 178,000 to 326,000 children



EPA Administrator Michael Regan talks with Brenda Bryant, left, and other members of the group Rise St. James, as he tours a neighborhood next to the Nu Star Energy oil storage tanks, in St. James Parish, La., on Nov. 16, 2021.

under age 6.

Lead is a neurotoxin that can irreversibly harm brain development in children, lower IQ, cause behavioral problems and lead to lifelong health effects. It also affects other organs, including the liver and kidneys.

The new rule, which takes effect early next year, targets levels of lead dust generated by paint. Currently, 10 micrograms per square foot is considered hazardous on floors, and a concentration 10 times that high is considered hazardous on window sills. The new rule brings both of those levels down to no detectable lead.

The proposed rule also would reduce what level is allowed

when a lead-abatement contractor finishes work on a property where lead has been identified as a problem. These levels would be 5 micrograms per square foot on the floor and 40 micrograms per square foot for sills. Individuals and firms that perform abatement work must be certified and follow specific work practices. Testing is required afterward to ensure dust-lead levels are below the new standards. Environmental justice and public health experts called the EPA rule long overdue, noting that lead poisoning disproportionately affects low-income communities and communities of color.

"We can all breathe a little

easier now that the EPA has significantly lowered its dust lead standard to protect children," said Peggy Shepard, co-founder and executive director of WE ACT for Environmental Justice, a New York-based advocacy group.

Shepard, who serves on the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council, said public health experts have long understood there is no safe level of lead in a child's blood, yet New York state leads the nation in cases of children with elevated blood levels. Black children in Harlem living below the poverty line are twice as likely to suffer from lead poisoning as poor white children, she said.

The U.S. government has gradually been reducing the standard for what counts as poisonous levels of lead in children's blood, with the most recent change occurring in 2021. But the EPA rule marks an effort to take more proactive action.

"When you are relying on the blood lead level in children to indicate whether there is lead in the environment, we are basically using the children as canaries in the mine," said Dr. Philip Landrigan, a Boston College biology professor who directs the school's Program for Global Public Health and the Common Good.

The National Child Care Association said when the lead rule was proposed last year that it could hurt many financially struggling child-care centers — especially those in low-income neighborhoods, where the facilities tend to be older. Without appropriate federal funding, the rule could push small, local child-care centers to close, the group said.

Earlier this month, the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development announced \$420 million in grants to remove lead hazards from homes, including HUD-assisted homes. Additional HUD grants will continue to be available to help with lead paint removal, the White House said. □

Associated Press

Trump says if he takes office, he'll fire special counsel Jack Smith 'within 2 seconds'

By **DAN MERICA and ERIC TUCKER**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump said Thursday that if he wins the White House, he will fire special counsel Jack Smith "within two seconds" of taking office.

Trump was asked during an interview with conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt whether he would first pardon himself or terminate Smith to remove the legal cloud hanging over him. Smith, who was appointed by Attorney General Merrick Garland in 2022, has charged the former president over his

efforts to overturn the 2020 election and his mishandling of classified documents.

"It's so easy. I would fire him within two seconds," Trump responded. "He'll be one of the first things addressed."

Trump, who regularly assails Smith and has suggested before that he would fire him if he were president, called Smith a "crooked person." Trump, if elected, could order the Justice Department to remove Smith. Trump probably would not be able to do it on his own because Smith is not a presidential appointee.

When Trump, while president,

was investigated by special counsel Robert Mueller, Trump urged his then-White House counsel, Don McGahn, to press the Justice Department to terminate Mueller. McGahn refused. Smith has brought two federal cases against Trump. One, accusing him of illegally retaining classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, was dismissed in July, a decision that Smith is appealing. The other, charging him with plotting to overturn the 2020 presidential election, has been delayed by a Supreme Court opinion conferring broad immunity



Special counsel Jack Smith speaks to the media about an indictment of former President Donald Trump, Aug. 1, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

for official acts made while president.

After Trump said he would fire Smith, Hewitt raised the possibility that Congress could impeach Trump over that

move. Trump said he did not believe that would happen. "I don't think they'll impeach me if I fire Jack Smith," Trump said. "Jack Smith is a scoundrel." □

Prosecutors to recommend resentencing Erik and Lyle Menendez in 1989 killings of their parents

By **STEFANIE DAZIO** and **JAIMIE DING**
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Prosecutors will recommend Erik and Lyle Menendez be resentenced for the 1989 killings of their parents in the family's Beverly Hills home, providing the brothers with a chance at freedom after 34 years behind bars.

An official with knowledge of the decision who was not authorized to speak on the record ahead of a planned press conference confirmed that Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón would recommend resentencing for the brothers. They were sentenced in 1996 to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Prosecutors must now seek court approval for their resentencing recommendation.

Lyle Menendez, then 21, and Erik Menendez, then 18, admitted they fatally shot their entertainment executive father, Jose Menendez, and their mother, Kitty Menendez. The brothers said they feared their parents were about to kill them to stop people from finding out that Jose Menendez had sexually abused Erik Menendez for years.

The brothers' extended family has pleaded for their release, saying they deserve to be free after decades



Lyle, left, and Erik Menendez sit with defense attorney Leslie Abramson, right, in Beverly Hills Municipal Court during a hearing, Nov. 26, 1990.

behind bars. Several family members have said that in today's world — which is more aware of the impact of sexual abuse — the brothers would not have been convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life.

Multiple members of their extended family, including their aunt Joan Andersen VanderMolen, sat in the first few rows of Thursday's news conference. Joan Andersen VanderMolen was Kitty Menendez's sister and has publicly supported their release. Mark Geragos, an attorney for the brothers, was

also there.

The Menendez brothers were tried twice for their parents' murders, with the first trial ending in a hung jury.

Prosecutors at the time contended that there was no evidence of molestation, and many details in their story of sexual abuse were not permitted in the second trial. The district attorney's office also said back then that the brothers were after their parents' multimillion-dollar estate.

Not all Menendez family members support resentencing. Attorneys for Milton

Anderson, the 90-year-old brother of Kitty Menendez, filed a legal brief asking the court to keep the brothers' original punishment. "They shot their mother, Kitty, reloading to ensure her death," Anderson's attorneys said in a statement Thursday. "The evidence remains overwhelmingly clear: the jury's verdict was just, and the punishment fits the heinous crime."

The LA district attorney is in the middle of a tough reelection fight against former federal prosecutor Nathan Hochman who has blamed

Gascón's progressive reform policies for recent high-profile murders and increased retail crime.

The Menendez case has gained new traction in recent weeks after Netflix began streaming the true-crime drama "Monsters: The Lyle and Erik Menendez Story."

But even as roughly 30 relatives have come forward to urge leniency, not every family member agrees that the brothers should be released.

Kitty Menendez's brother, Milton Andersen — who is 90-years-old — said through an attorney earlier this month that he believes "the appropriate sentence" is life in prison without the possibility of parole.

The evidence under prosecutorial review included a letter written by Erik Menendez that his attorneys say corroborates the allegations that he was sexually abused by his father.

Roy Rossello, a former member of the Latin pop group Menudo, also recently came forward saying he was drugged and raped by Jose Menendez, the boys' father, when he was a teen in the 1980s.

Menudo was signed under RCA Records, which Jose Menendez headed at the time. □



In this image provided by The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), new weapon detectors that can be deployed at subway entrances are displayed during a news conference in New York, March 28, 2024.

Associated Press

By **JAKE OFFENHARTZ**

NEW YORK (AP) — A pilot program testing AI-powered

weapons scanners inside some New York City subway stations this summer did not

AI-powered weapons scanners used in NYC subway found zero guns in one month test

detect any passengers with firearms — but falsely alerted more than 100 times, according to newly released police data.

Through nearly 3,000 searches, the scanners turned up more than 118 false positives as well as 12 knives, police said, though they declined to say whether the positive hits referred to illegal blades or tools, such as pocket knives, that are allowed in the transit system.

Mayor Eric Adams, a Democrat and tech enthusiast, announced plans to pilot the portable scanners, manufactured by Evolv, at a handful of subway stations

this past summer in an effort to deter violence within the subway system.

The announcement drew skepticism from some riders and civil liberties groups, who argued it was neither feasible nor constitutional to scan millions of riders who enter the subway system through hundreds of entrances each day. Violent crime is rare in the system, though the announcement came on the back of two high-profile shooting incidents.

After Adams promised for months to make the results of the test public, the New York Police Department released

a four-sentence statement Wednesday night noting it had performed 2,749 scans at 20 stations during the 30-day period. In total, there were 118 false positives — a rate of 4.29%.

The statement did not describe the length of time of each screening, how many officers were required to staff the devices or how many riders refused the searches. Inquiries to Evolv were not returned.

Earlier this month, a police spokesperson said they were still "evaluating the outcome of the pilot" and had not entered into any contract with Evolv. □

Canada to reduce immigration targets as Trudeau acknowledges his policy failed



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, center, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Minister Marc Miller, left, and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Paul Chiang hold a press conference on Parliament Hill in Ottawa Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024.

Associated Press

By **ROB GILLIES**
Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Thursday that the country will significantly reduce the number of new immigrants it allows into the country after acknowledging that his government failed to get the balance right coming out of the pandemic. Trudeau's Liberal government was criticized for its plan to allow 500,000 new permanent residents into the country in each of the next two years. On Thursday, he said next year's target will now be 395,000 new permanent residents and that the figure will drop to 380,000 in 2026 and 365,000 in 2027. "In the tumultuous times as we emerged from the pandemic, between addressing labor needs and maintaining population growth, we didn't get the balance right," Trudeau said.

"Immigration is essential for Canada's future, but it must be controlled and it must be sustainable."

Trudeau, who is facing calls from within his own party not to seek a fourth term, has endured mounting criticism over his immigration policies and the negative impact that population growth has had on housing affordability. He said his government will reduce the number of immigrants Canada brings in over the next three years, and that this will freeze popula-

tion growth over the next two years. Canada reached 41 million people in April. The population was 37.5 million in 2019.

Trudeau said Canada needs to stabilize its population growth to allow all levels of government to make necessary changes to health care, housing and social services so that it can accommodate more people in the future. Immigration Minister Marc Miller said the lower immigration numbers will help with the country's housing shortage.

He also acknowledged the change in public opinion about immigration.

"That volume that we have put forward is of concern," Miller said.

Miller said the government sees the pressures facing Canadians, and that it must adapt its policies accordingly. He said government leaders have listened and will continue to protect the integrity of the immigration system and grow Canada's population responsibly. "We are an open country, but not everyone can come to this country," he said, noting that Canada will continue to welcome outsiders and that the government's immigration targets remain ambitious.

Trudeau's government has long touted Canada's immigration policy and how Canada is better than peer countries in welcoming new-

comers and integrating them into the economy.

Pierre Poilievre, the leader of the opposition Conservative Party, accused Trudeau of destroying the national consensus on immigration.

"He has destroyed our immigration system through his own personal incompetence and destroyed 150 years of common sense consensus with the Liberals and Conservatives on that subject," Poilievre said.

"He cannot fix what he broke on immigration and housing or anything else because he is busy fighting his own caucus," he added.

Poilievre was referring to calls by some lawmakers from Trudeau's own party to not run for a fourth term. Those calls represent one of the biggest tests of Trudeau's political career, but he said Thursday that he intends to stay on through the next election. Nelson Wiseman, professor emeritus of political science at the University of Toronto, said the Trudeau government messed up badly on immigration.

"The government's logic — to grow the economy and sustain an aging Canadian population by bringing in more young immigrants — was sound. But Ottawa has little control over meeting the housing, health, education, and other welfare needs of residents, whether they are citizens or immigrants," Wiseman said. □

Indonesia says its coast guard drove away Chinese ship that interrupted survey in disputed sea



In this photo released by Indonesian Maritime Security Agency (BAKAMLA), a Maritime Security Agency uses a binocular to monitor the movement of a Chinese coast guard vessel in the water of North Natuna Sea in the disputed area of the South China Sea, Indonesia, Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024

Associated Press

By **EDNA TARIGAN**
Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

— Indonesian patrol ships drove a Chinese coast guard vessel away from a survey vessel in a disputed area of the South China Sea for the second time in three days, Indonesian authorities said Thursday.

Indonesia's Maritime Security Agency said a Chinese ship approached the MV Geo Coral on Monday and Wednesday, interrupting a seismic data survey being conducted by the state energy company PT Pertamina in a part of the South China Sea claimed by both countries.

Asked about the Indonesian statement, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said the Coast Guard vessel had carried out routine patrols in waters under Chinese jurisdiction. "China is ready to enhance communication and consultation with Indonesia through diplomatic channels and properly handle maritime differences between the two countries," he added.

China's "nine-dash line," which it uses to roughly demarcate its claim to most of the South China Sea, overlaps with a section of Indonesia's exclusive economic zone that extends from the Natuna Islands.

Indonesia does not have a formal territorial dispute

with China over the South China Sea but has become increasingly protective of its rights in the region, while Chinese ships have regularly entered the area Indonesia calls the North Natuna Sea, fueling tensions between the countries.

Indonesian authorities said the Chinese coast guard ship CCG 5402 was first detected near MV Geo Coral on Monday. An Indonesian patrol ship contacted the ship, whose crew insisted that the area was under China's jurisdiction before Indonesian coast guard and navy ships drove the Chinese ship away.

On Wednesday morning, the Chinese ship again approached the site of the seismic survey and was driven away, according to the Maritime Security Agency. Earlier, the agency had said the second encounter took place Thursday morning.

A video distributed by the agency showed Indonesian coast guard officers speaking to their Chinese counterparts by radio and the China's coast guard officials.

"This is China Coast Guard 5402. China has indisputable authority over Nan-sha islands and the adjacent waters," says the the Chinese officer. "Chinese Coast Guard regular patrol in and above these domestic jurisdictional waters is unquestionable." □

A car bomb explodes outside a police station in western Mexico, wounding 3 officers



A forensic investigator works the scene where a car bomb exploded near a police station, in Acambaro, Guanajuato state, Mexico, Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024.

Associated Press

By **ARMANDO SOLÍS**

Associated Press

ACAMBARO, Mexico (AP) — A car bomb left outside a police station in the town of Acambaro in western Mexico has wounded three people, prosecutors in the violence-racked state of Guanajuato said Thursday. They said another explosion occurred in the nearby town of Jerecuaro, but nobody was wounded.

The near-simultaneous attacks in two different towns located about a half-hour away from each other suggested the involvement of drug cartels that have been fighting bloody turf battles for years in Guanajuato. Despite the violence, newly inaugurated President Claudia Sheinbaum pledged to continue the "hugs, not bullets" approach of her predecessor. Sheinbaum said Thursday she has ordered the army "not to have confrontations" with the cartels.

"We are not going to return to a war against the narcos," Sheinbaum said.

But it takes two to tango, and her administration already appears to be locked in a war-like situation with the cartels in several states, whether she likes it or not, just three weeks after she took office.

The car bomb in Acambaro was sizable enough to toss parts of the burnt-out car across a tree-lined median strip in the street outside the police station, according to photos distributed by the municipal police. The powerful blast apparently blew out the windows and doors of nearby homes. It was the most serious car-bomb attack against authorities in Mexico since June 2023, when a cartel used a car bomb to kill a National Guard officer in the nearby city of Celaya.

In July 2023, a drug cartel in the neighboring state of Jalisco set off a coordinated series of seven roadway bombs that killed four police officers and two civilians. The improvised

explosive devices, or IEDs, had apparently been planted in holes dug in the roadway. The use of car bombs, improvised explosive devices and bomb-dropping drones illustrate the increasingly open, military-style challenge posed by the country's drug cartels. Sheinbaum has pledged to continue the policy of her predecessor and mentor, former president Andrés Manuel López Obrador, of avoiding confrontations with drug cartels. Before he left office on Sept. 30, López Obrador publicly appealed to the gangs to keep violence down, and offered training programs aimed at reducing the number of young recruits for the cartels. The policy did not result in any significant reduction in Mexico's historically high levels of homicides.

Sheinbaum faces a big surge in violence simultaneously in the northern state of Sinaloa, the southern state of Chiapas, and in Guanajuato, the state that has had the highest number of homicides in Mexico.

Sheinbaum, who took office Oct. 1, has said she will make reducing violence in Guanajuato a priority, and said the attacks Thursday were being investigated.

But David Saucedo, a security analyst based in Guanajuato, said the government has failed to recognize the scope of the problem. Sheinbaum and other officials almost always respond to the violence with stock phrases like "investigations are being carried out" or "the problem is being addressed."

"In the federal and state governments, there is a resistance to talking about narco terrorism, because they think it will create a bad image for the country," Saucedo said. "The truth is that Mexico already has a bad image regarding crime and violence."

The problem is becoming more acute for the Mexican government, as drug cartels and violence in Mexico have become an issue in the upcoming U.S. presidential election. □



Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado takes a selfie with opposition presidential candidate Edmundo Gonzalez, right, during a protest against official election results declaring President Nicolas Maduro the winner in Caracas, Venezuela, July 30, 2024.

Associated Press

Venezuelan opposition leaders win the EU's top human rights prize

BRUSSELS (AP) — Venezuelan opposition leaders Maria Corina Machado and Edmundo González Urrutia have won the European Union's top human rights honor, the Sakharov Prize, European Parliament President Roberta Metsola announced Thursday. Machado was set to run as the democratic opposition candidate against the incumbent president, Nicolás Maduro, in Venezuela's contested 2024 election, but she was disqualified by the government, so González took her place. He had never run for office before the presidential election. The lead-up to the poll saw widespread repression, including disqualifications, arrests, and human rights violations. Machado went into hiding, fearing for her life. A Venezuelan court issued an arrest warrant for González, who moved to Spain and was granted asylum.


"In their quest for a fair, free and peaceful transition of power, they have fearlessly upheld values that millions of Venezuelans and the European Parliament hold so dear: justice, democracy and the rule of law," Metsola told EU lawmakers.

"This parliament stands with the people of Venezuela and with Maria and Edmundo in their struggle for the democratic future of their country," she said, adding: "We are confident that Venezuela and democracy will ultimately prevail."

Machado's group maintains that it has evidence that González won the July 28 presidential election by a wide margin, despite Maduro's claim to have won. Maduro's victory was contested by independent observers, including the United Nations. In a resolution last month, the EU parliament recognized González as Venezuela's legitimate president.


In a post on X, González said that he was "honored and grateful" for the award. He thanked Machado, describing her as "an exceptional person who, with all her political talent, her absolute dedication and her indomitable spirit, paved the way that we are currently following, keeping the flame of freedom alive in our country."

González also expressed his "gratitude, pride and admiration for my Venezuelan compatriots, who with the utmost civility, courage and determination have for years confronted, and continue to confront, a regime that systematically violates human rights." But he warned that "the struggle is not over. The regime persists in blocking political change, committing more and more human rights violations and crimes against humanity," and he urged supporters of democracy everywhere to help "enforce the sovereign mandate of the Venezuelan people." □



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Did you know about...?

The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today is proud to officially introduce a new segment called *Did you know about...?*, where we dive into some (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this first edition, we look back at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamentu we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is placa. Cents are called cen (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called *Dos placa*; 10-cent coins were called *debchi*; 25-cent coins were called *diez placa* and the 50-cent coin was once called *Yotin* (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called *placa too*. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection con-

tains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were relatively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.

Current design and symbolism

10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a *Turtuga blanco* (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the



ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of *Cas Floria* (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called *Shoshoro*. The birds *Trupiaal*, *Shoco*, rock drawings, and the symbols of *Cas Floria* with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also a *Purun di ceramica* (clay pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

50 florin

On this bill, we see the *Cododo* (blue lizard found on the ABC is-



lands), *Cangreu di tera* (land crab), *Willem III Tower*, and again the symbols of *Cas Floria* with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called *Banana di rif*. The colors are pink/purple.

100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the *Yuwana* (Iguana), *Aloe*, *Toteki* (lizard), the symbols of *Cas Floria* with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the *Baile di cinta* (folkloric dance with silk ribbons).

200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the *Dornasol* and the *Warawara*—both local birds, along with the symbols of *Cas Floria* with a piece of mosaic, the *Tuna cactus* plant, and the *Caha di orgel* (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

Extra fact:

the word "florin" supposedly is named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word "florino", both explanations related to historical Italian currencies. □

Source: *Placa, placa, placa* by the National Library of Aruba

Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:
Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:
Goodwill Ambassadors
Mr. Luigi & Mrs. Carla Sno - Passera from San Giuliano Milanese Milano, Italy.

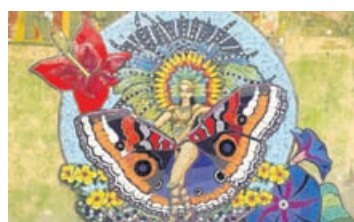
Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's beaches.
- Aruba's weather.
- "Being back to see family & friends"
- "Lecture for the volunteers as Psychooncologist"
- "Born in Aruba"



On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □



SAN NICOLAS— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nico-

Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas

las is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in

the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas - more than anywhere else on the island.

Flow of history
if you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will

find three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history. Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaus of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barbershop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of education or enjoyment. Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how are Carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

net for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair, San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. □

The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a mag-

62 units

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Fusion - Piano & Wine Bar | Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Treasure Cove
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Aruba Tourism Authority honored a loyal visitor at Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Emerald Ambassador of Aruba. The honoree was respectively honored with a certificate for his years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:
Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honoree was:

Emerald Ambassador
Mr. Richard Goodwin from Gardner Massachusetts, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honoree, presented him with gifts, and thanked him for choosing Aruba as his favorite vacation destination, as his home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honoree was:

- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's weather.
- "My second home"

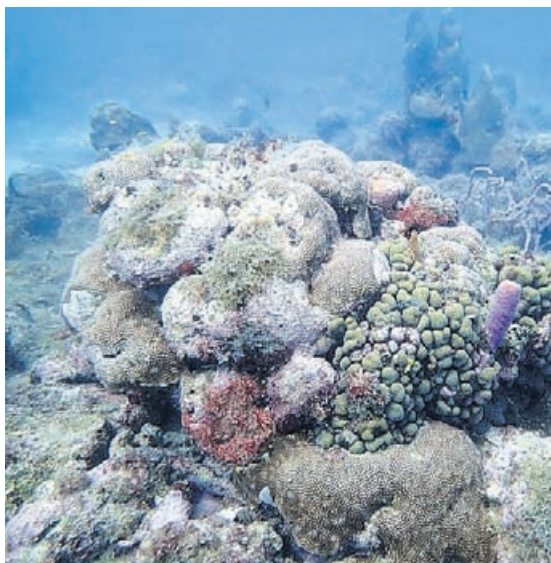
On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honoree for his continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □



Aruba's Bocas: home to the rarest fossil reefs on the planet!

(Oranjestad)—If you've been to the northern coast of Aruba already, you've probably noticed how the ground differs entirely from the sandy beaches on the southern part of the island. These hard surfaces, with sharp bumps and holes are actually fossilized coral reefs, of which its growth and changes can be traced back to the last glacial period.

On May 30 2023, geoscientists, Dr. Patrick



Boyden from the Marum research faculty at the University of Bremen, Prof. dr. Alesio Rovere from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Prof. dr. Gianfranco Scicchitano, from the University of Bari Aldo Moro, presented their research on these fossilized coral reefs at the University of Aruba. Their focus for their research included studying the health and formation patterns of these coral reefs, and to investigate how these reefs have responded and can respond to fluctuating sea levels or extreme weather, like hurricanes and tsunamis.

Through underwater and land surveillance, and 3D models of the reefs, they were able to narrow down when these formations started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels during the past hundred or even thousands of years, and the effects that this fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward side of Aruba.

These findings can certainly put things into perspective. The ground on which we have walked many times in the northern part of the island hold such rich history, history that dates back to a time that most of us can-

not even imagine. As the scientists themselves have pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side are truly an incredible and rare remnant of geological history, as they provide a clear view of how these reefs have formed.

This research is also important for the future of coral reefs on the island. By studying ris-

ing sea levels and climate impact on these coral reefs, we are able to take concrete action in protecting and preserving our coral reefs. So, if you are ever visiting one of the bocas or driving along the northern part of the island, please be conscious to help protect our natural historical remnant. Oh, and wear (coral-friendly) sunscreen! □

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Today is going to be a good day

(Oranjestad)—Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

Nature Calls



The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whiptail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website www.arubanationalpark.org

Philip's Animal Garden



To stay with the animals, let's hop to an amazing place. Something different to do, an experience that is to be enjoyed by people of all ages. Welcome to Philip's Animal Garden. We are not talking about a zoo here, this is actually a sanctuary for all types of creatures, from

horses to peacocks, kangaroos to turtles, monkeys, goats, and many, many more different species. The place was founded in 2009 and it is the only organization rescuing and rehabilitating exotic animals in Aruba, which has resulted in an amazing collection of these animals. They provide a suitable living environment for all the rescued animals. Up until now the owner, Philip, has built this shelter with his own efforts; building all the cages from scratch, designing all structures and welding them with his own bare hands. His goal is to upgrade the facilities to a world-class animal shelter with veterinary care and round-the-clock staffs. With the input from the Aruban community and visitors they provide the best care for these animals. Please check out their website for more information: www.philipsanimalgarden.com.

The Lighthouse



No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light. www.arubalighthouse.com will give you more information.

Kayak in the Mangroves



Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you

are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some workout -as it might get a little windy and rough-, you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. Its fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. There are several companies that offer kayak tours, we had good experience with The Shack Kayak Tours Aruba, find them on Facebook.

Take an "off-road" sightseeing tour



A must-do activity on the island is for sure taking an off-road sightseeing tour. If you have a rented car, you can drive through the north-eastern side of Aruba and explore the natural pools, caves, rock formations and gorgeous view of the Atlantic Ocean. To access most of these sights, like the natural pool (Conchi) and the Guadirikiri and Fontein caves, you must enter through the Arikok National Park and buy a day pass. Then you drive up the rugged road that leads you through the white dunes, caves and along the wind turbines. Other locations, like the Ayo and Casibari Rock formation are situated more in the center of the island, and are free for guests, 24 hours a day.

Go for a shopping spree in the city center



Need a new bathing suit? Head to the city center of Oranjestad, where there is countless of different stores—both high end and more affordable—that can offer you the service you deserve! Local shopping stores often offer a more affordable price, and have a variety of clothes, shoes, bathing suites, purses and more. Along the Royal Plaza strip, there are numerous jewelry stores with great quality jewelry. In the Renaissance mall, you can shop high-end luxury brands, like Dolce & Gabbana, Kate Spade, Louis Vuitton and more.

Around the high-rise hotel area near Palm Beach, the Paseo Herencia Mall contain a variety of shopping stores, restaurants, small food stands and even a movie theater! □

The district of Savaneta: The capital before Oranjestad

(Oranjestad)—Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.

Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the legend of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their canoes. So, since the Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first form of civilization.

It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499. This was the beginning of the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take notice of land from afar and continue sailing. However, Aruba was an exception. He had heard that there were "quebracho" trees on the island, which

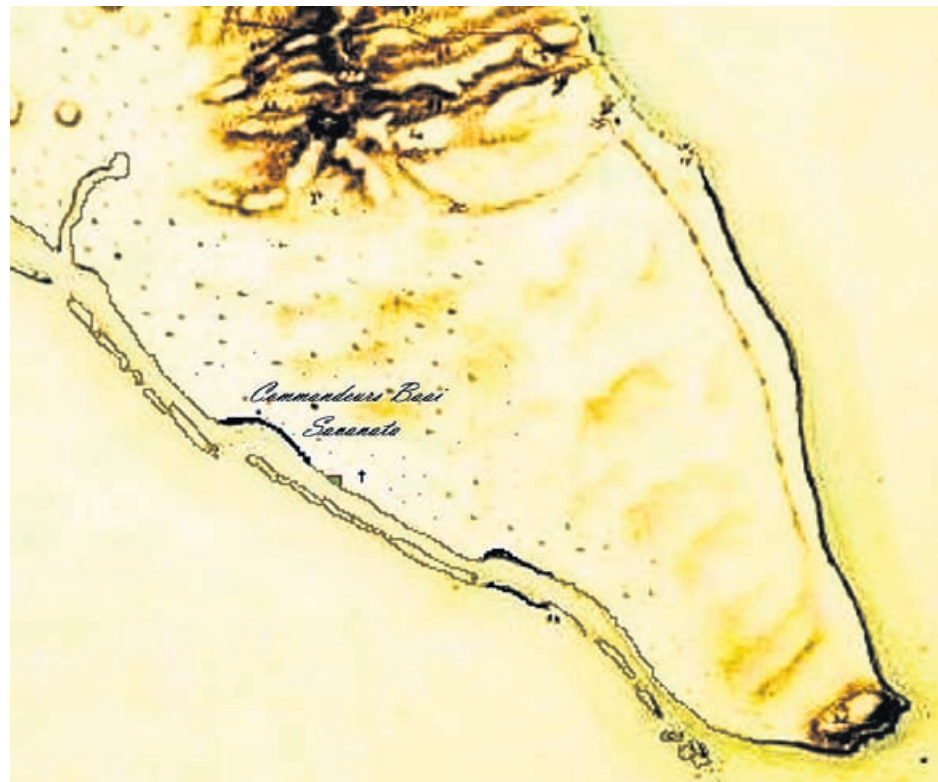
were commonly used to produce dye or paint. But since these trees could not be found in Savaneta, he continued to search in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree barks was via a route passing through Savaneta, and so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz was made.

The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805)

During the 80-year war between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC islands. Once they landed in Aruba, they deported the small Arawakan and Spanish community that was living on the island. This was the beginning of colonization of the ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curaçao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The Dutch had often forced the indigenous community to work for them.

In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surrendered the islands to the Dutch.

The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams. Because the Dutch were interested in other Caribbean islands and countries in South America, they imported Dutch merchants and businessmen, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta officially



Commandeursbaai (Commander's Bay) at Savaneta

became the island's first capital.

However, at the end of the 18th century, the commander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to what is now "Horse Bay" in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then Playa.

How Savaneta got its name

The name Savaneta probably has a Spanish origin. It was said that when the Spanish climbed a hill called Yara, they saw that the area was mostly open and had no big trees. In Spanish, such a land area is called a "sabana".

Because of its land surface, Sava-

neta was a great place to construct cattle farms. From here, the farmer culture on Aruba was born. Before the Aruban Gold Rush and the construction of the Refinery in San Nicolas, most residents were farmers, and Savaneta had many inhabitants that farmed fruits and vegetables. They also continued the tradition of raising cattle, like goat, sheep, pigs and horses. Savaneta was one of the first places on the island to have a general farming culture. From this culture, many other traditions were born, like the Dera Gay Holiday that we celebrate every year on June 24th. □

Source: *Historia di Savaneta (History of Savaneta)* by Adolf "Dufi" Kock.



Alonso de Ojeda



"Quebracho" (Kibrahacha) tree; used to make dye and paint

CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

- ACROSS**
- 43 Annex
1 Lose it
6 Abodes girl, often
11 Curaçao's neighbor
12 In the area
13 Bury
14 September sign
15 Letter after sigma
16 Small loud-speaker
18 Letter after zeta
19 Sermon topic
20 One or more
21 Depend
23 Stately
25 Dandy
27 Little piggy
28 Celtic priest
30 Colony members
33 Floral garland
34 Astronaut Grissom
36 Important age
37 Ace
39 Impair
40 Camp craft
41 Cake cover
- DOWN**
- 1 Spat
2 Highly decorative
3 Shared acquaintances
4 Presidential
5 Pub pastime
6 Poor person
7 Theater award
8 The Hatfields and the McCoys, e.g.
9 Playwright O'Neill
10 Yarn
17 Triumph
22 "Hey there!"
24 Frilly wrap
26 Sties
- 28 Reply to "Gracias"
29 Twosome
31 Stupor
32 Privates' bosses
33 Union chapter
35 Police trap
38 Flue filth
42 Langley org.

G	A	M	E	S	C	A	L	E
U	S	E	R	B	U	L	L	E
M	A	G	I	A	M	E	L	I
S	P	A	C	E	B	A	R	
			S	N	A	C	K	B
I	N	D	O	O	R			E
D	A	R	N	S		S	H	E
O	V	A			A	W	A	R
L	E	M	O	N	B	A	R	
			S	O	U	N	D	B
E	L	I	C	I	T		T	A
M	O	R	A	S	S		O	R
S	P	A	R	E		P	E	L

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			
13						14			
15				16	17				
18				19			20		
21			22		23		24		
	25		26		27				
33			34		35		36		
37			38				39		
40					41	42			
43					44				
45					46				

4-5

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-5 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

DBNP M GUYDP IYWNF ZPKY
M OMUMGN, BN VYNFP'K
LNGYIN M CZPA. KBN OMUMGN
LNGYINF M GZQGEF. — KEQCZFB
OQYWNQL

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: INFORMATION IS LIGHT. INFORMATION, IN ITSELF, ABOUT ANYTHING, IS LIGHT. — TOM STOPPARD

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

6	7					3		
2			6	3		1		
3	5							
	6				7	5		1
		7	1			6	4	
			4		8	7		2
				4		2	9	
5		2						
1			9				6	

Difficulty: ★★★★★

10/25

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Answer to previous puzzle

3	4	5	6	7	1	2	8	9
7	2	8	4	5	9	3	1	6
6	9	1	3	2	8	7	5	4
5	3	6	7	8	2	9	4	1
4	1	9	5	3	6	8	7	2
2	8	7	1	9	4	5	6	3
8	5	4	2	1	3	6	9	7
1	7	2	9	6	5	4	3	8
9	6	3	8	4	7	1	2	5

Difficulty: ★★★

10/24

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Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

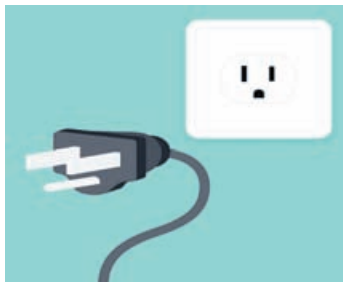
Supermarket hours



(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Electrical power



Drinking water



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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People 50 and older should get pneumococcal vaccine, U.S. health officials recommend

By MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. health officials on Wednesday recommended that people 50 and older get a shot against bacteria that can cause pneumonia and other dangerous illnesses.

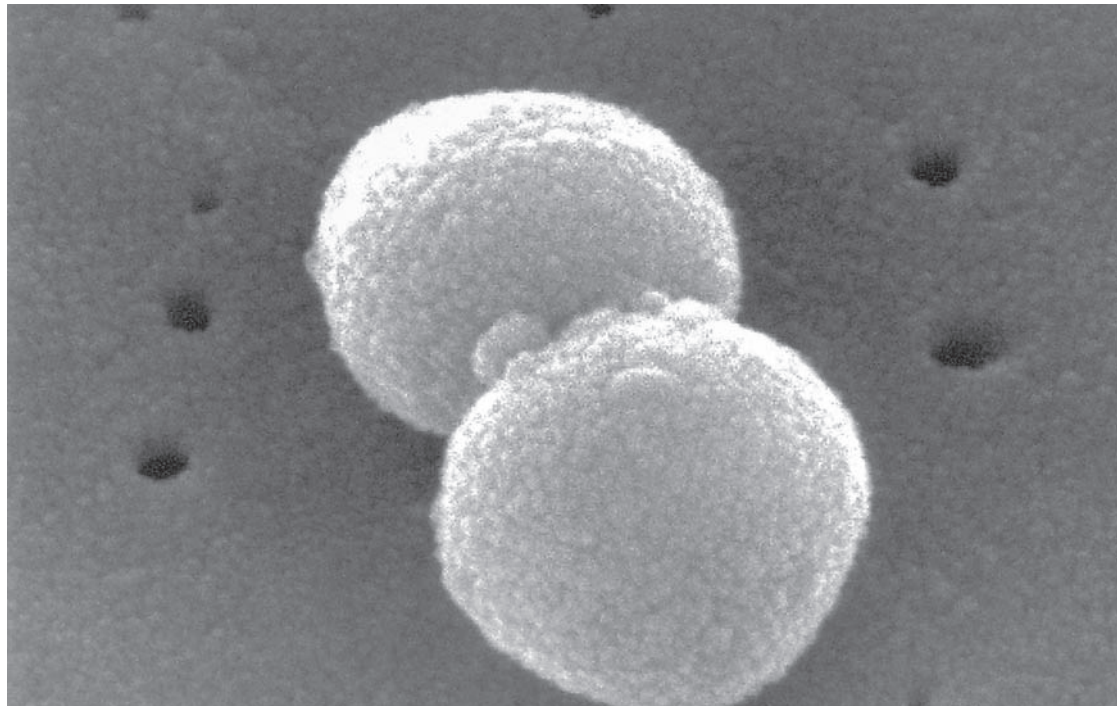
The recommendation was made by a scientific advisory panel and then accepted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The decision lowered — from 65 — the minimum recommended age for older adults to get the shot.

"Now is a great time to get vaccinated against pneumococcal disease in preparation for the winter respiratory season," CDC Director Dr. Mandy Cohen said in a statement Wednesday night.

The advisory committee voted 14-1 to make the change during a meeting earlier in the day in Atlanta. The guidance is widely heeded by doctors and prompts health insurers to pay for recommended shots.

Pneumococcal shot recommendations are sometimes called the most complicated vaccination guidance that the government issues. The CDC currently recommends shots for children younger than 5 and adults 65 or older, as long as they have never been vaccinated against pneumococcal disease. Officials also recommend the shots for children and adults at increased risk for pneumococcal disease, such as those with diabetes, chronic liver disease or a weakened immune system.

There are more than 100 known types of pneumococci bacteria, which can cause serious infections in the lungs and other parts of the body. Each year, the U.S. sees roughly 30,000 cases of invasive pneumococcal disease, which includes blood infections, brain and spine inflammation, and other illnesses. About 30% of cases are among 50- to 64-year-olds.



This electron microscopic image provided by the Centers for Disease Control and prevention depicts two, round-shaped, Gram-positive, *Streptococcus pneumoniae* bacteria.

Associated Press

The first pneumococcal vaccine was licensed in the U.S. in 1977, and since then pharmaceutical companies have been coming up with newer versions that target a dozen or more types in a single shot. Different vaccines have fallen in and out of favor, including Pfizer's Prevnar 13, which was once a top-seller but is no longer available.

There are four vaccines now in use. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration this year approved the newest — Merck's Capvaxiv, which can cost around \$300 a dose and protects against 21 types, including eight not included in other pneumococcal vaccines.

A Merck spokesperson said it was specifically designed to help protect against the bacteria types that cause the majority of severe disease in adults aged 50 and older.

The CDC advisory panel in June recommended the vaccine as an option for adults at higher risk. At the time, the committee also talked about the possibility of lowering the age recommendation for older adults. They noted that illness-causing infections peak at age 55 to 59 in Black Americans — a lower age than what's seen in white people. But the committee put off that decision until this week's meeting.

Some concerns: A booster shot may prove to be necessary, perhaps in about 15 years. And there are some new vaccines in development that could force another update to the recommendations. □



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San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
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World on pace for significantly more warming without immediate climate action, report warns



Pumpjacks operate in a pasture, Monday, Sept. 30, 2024, near Hays, Kan.

Associated Press

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
AP Science Writer

The world is on a path to get 1.8 degrees Celsius (3.2 Fahrenheit) warmer than it is now, but could trim half a degree of that projected future heating if countries do everything they promise to fight climate change, a United Nations report said Thursday. But it still won't be near enough to curb warming's worst impacts such as nastier heat waves, wildfires, storms and droughts, the report said.

Under every scenario but the "most optimistic" with the biggest cuts in fossil fuels burning, the chance of curbing warming so it stays within the internationally agreed-upon limit "would be virtually zero," the United Nations Environment Programme's annual Emissions Gap Report said. The goal, set in the 2015 Paris Agreement, is to limit human-caused warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times. The report said that since the

mid-1800s, the world has already heated up by 1.3 degrees Celsius (2.3 degrees Fahrenheit), up from previous estimates of 1.1 or 1.2 degrees because it includes the record heat last year.

Instead the world is on pace to hit 3.1 degrees Celsius (5.6 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times. But if nations somehow do all of what they promised in targets they submitted to the United Nations that warming could be limited to 2.6 degrees Celsius (4.7 degrees Fahrenheit), the report said.

In that super-stringent cuts scenario where nations have zero net carbon emissions after mid-century, there's a 23% chance of keeping warming at or below the 1.5 degrees goal. It's far more likely that even that optimistic scenario will keep warming to 1.9 degrees above pre-industrial times, the report said.

"The main message is that action right now and right here before 2030 is criti-

cal if we want to lower the temperature," said report main editor Anne Olhoff, an economist and chief climate advisor to the UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre. "It is now or never really if we want to keep 1.5 alive."

Without swift and dramatic emission cuts "on a scale and pace never seen before," UNEP Director Inger Andersen said "the 1.5 degree C goal will soon be dead and (the less stringent Paris goal of) well below 2 degrees C will take its place in the intensive care unit." Olhoff said Earth's on a trajectory to slam the door on 1.5 sometime in 2029.

"Winning slowly is the same as losing when it comes to climate change," said author Neil Grant of Climate Analytics. "And so I think we are at risk of a lost decade."

One of the problems is that even though nations pledged climate action in their targets submitted as part of the Paris Agreement, there's a big gap be-

tween what they said they will do and what they are doing based on their existing policies, report authors said.

The world's 20 richest countries — which are responsible for 77% of the carbon pollution in the air — are falling short of their stated emission-cutting goals, with only 11 meeting their individual targets, the report said.

Emission cuts strong enough to limit warming to the 1.5 degree goal are more than technically and economically possible, the report found. They just aren't being proposed or done.

The report "shows that yet again governments are sleepwalking towards climate chaos," said climate scientist Bill Hare, CEO of Climate Analytics, who wasn't part of the report.

Another outside scientist, Johan Rockstrom, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, said the report confirms his worst concerns: "We are not making progress and

are now following a 3.1 degree path, which is, with next to zero uncertainty, a path to disaster."

Both the 3.1 degree and 2.6 degree calculations are a tenth of a degree Celsius warmer than last year's version of the UN report, which experts said is within the margin of uncertainty. Mostly the problem is "there's one year less time to cut emissions and avoid climate catastrophe," said MIT's John Sterman, who models different warming scenarios based on emissions and countries policies. "Catastrophe is a strong word and I don't use it lightly," he said, citing the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's latest report saying 3 degrees of warming would trigger severe and irreversible damage.

The report focuses on what's called an emissions gap. It calculates a budget of how many billions of tons of greenhouse gases — mostly carbon dioxide and methane — the world can spew and stay under 1.5 degrees, 1.8 degrees and 2 degrees of warming since pre-industrial times. It then figures how much annual emissions have to be slashed by 2030 to keep at those levels.

To keep at or below 1.5 degrees, the world must slash emissions by 42%, and to keep at or below 2 degrees, the cut has to be 28%, the report, named, "No more hot air... please!" said.

In 2023, the world spewed 57.1 billion metric tons (62.9 billion U.S. tons) of greenhouse gases, the report said. That's 1,810 metric tons (1,995 U.S. tons) of heat-trapping gases a second.

"There is a direct link between increasing emissions and increasingly frequent and intense climate disasters," United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a video message released with the report. "We're playing with fire, but there can be no more playing for time. We're out of time." □

At Aaron Judge's urging, the Yankees have minted a new vibe

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — These Yankees have minted a new vibe going into their first World Series since 2009. Baseball's most tradition-bound team, with a grandiose granite-and-limestone stadium and pinstriped home uniforms that have hardly changed since 1936, has added a flamboyant flash to its accessories: Statue of Liberty green.

"Been kind of looking for a little accent color and I think the Statue of Liberty and what it represents in the city and the state, it's a good one," said captain Aaron Judge, who started the color craze.

New York remains the major leagues' most conservatively dressed club in an era marked by expressions of individuality — Yankees players remain forbidden from long hair or beards under a policy owner George Steinbrenner issued in 1976. But whether its Jazz Chisholm Jr. and Alex Verdugo wearing glitzy chains, or Juan Soto walking up to a dembow hit titled after his signature "Soto Shuffle," this year's team isn't as stodgy as the Yankees of yesteryear.

Up and down the lineup, nothing expresses that quite like all the mint green accents. It's on cleats, chest protectors, batting gloves and sliding mitts, along with wrist and elbow guards. This is one team happy to be



New York Yankees' Aaron Judge celebrates after hitting a double during the sixth inning in Game 4 of an American League Division baseball playoff series against the Kansas City Royals Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024, in Kansas City, Mo.

told it looks like statues — at least sartorially.

Judge is the Yankees' ultimate influencer, and if he goes green, the rest of the team follows.

Reliever Jake Cousins remembered joining up with the Yankees at the team hotel in Phoenix after he was acquired on March 31, the fourth day of the season.

"I got on the bus, went to the back, just kind of said, 'What's up?' to everybody and sat there in silence," Cousins said. "And when we pulled into the stadium — Judge sits at the very front — and we got off the bus, and Judge got off first. He

waited off on the side for me and I was the last guy off the bus and Judge was there waiting for me, like, 'Hey, man, welcome to the team. If you need anything, I'll help you out.' That just shows his true leadership."

Now 32 and likely to win his second AL MVP Award, Judge leads the Yankees into the World Series starting Friday at the Los Angeles Dodgers. He signed with the Yankees in 2013, made his big league debut three years later and in December 2022 was appointed the team's first captain since Derek Jeter.

"I've been in the Yankees

organization for a while and I just felt like that was what I saw the veteran guys do, and I just wanted to be a part of that," Judge said. "I try to continue to do that to this day and try to show our younger guys the same thing, 'How you doing around here?' because the quicker we get these guys feeling comfortable with us, feel like they're a part of this team, the better they're going to be playing, the better they're going to help us win games." Yankees manager Aaron Boone cites a togetherness that developed when players started reporting to the minor league com-

plex in Tampa, Florida, last January, well before spring training. Five of the 26 players on the active roster for the AL Championship Series clincher were not with the Yankees when spring training started and acclimated after they arrived.

Getting into the tonal temperament, Nestor Cortes even had a glove made in mint with a navy torch, orange Statue of Liberty flame and "Hialeah Kid" stitched in script into the leather along back of the index finger. The left-hander contacted 44 Pro, his equipment supplier, on April 26 to make a special order.

"I said everybody's using the mint-colored glove here or mint-colored accessory," Cortes recalled telling the company. "I'd like to kind of blend it in with New York and see if we can get a torch in there or something." Graphic designer Trey Miassek got to work and Cortes used the glitzy glove when he pitched six scoreless innings to beat Baltimore for the Yankees on June 18.

"They're known to be the strictest in the MLB in terms of having facial hair or piercings or hairstyles," said Benny Miller, Pro44's glove product line manager. "It's always kind of surprising when they all went crazy with the mint." Cortes later had to stop using the glove when MLB decided the flame was distracting to batters, the pitcher said. □

Associated Press

Miami's Lionel Messi earned more than 22 other MLS teams' payrolls in 2024

BETHESDA, Md. (AP) — Inter Miami's Lionel Messi earned more than the entire payrolls of 22 other Major League Soccer teams, and Olivier Giroud has \$3,675,000 in annualized total compensation under the contract he signed to join Los Angeles FC in July.

The Major League Soccer Players Association released its salary update on Thursday and Messi's \$12 million base salary and \$20,446,667 in total compensation from Inter Miami remained the same as in the initial listing in May.

Those figures cover what Messi receives from his MLS deal, which runs through the 2025 season, including any marketing bonus and agent's fees. They do not account for any additional agreements with the team or its affiliates, or for any performance bonuses.

Average guaranteed compensation rose 9.8% to \$596,226 from \$543,207.

Miami, the league's regular-season Supporters Shield champion, led the league with a record \$41.7 million payroll, double all but Toronto (\$31.8 million),

Los Angeles FC (\$22.1 million), the LA Galaxy (\$22 million) and Nashville (\$21.9 million).

Players on Cincinnati (\$21 million) and Houston (\$20.5 million) also totaled more than Messi.

Montreal (\$11.4 million), Philadelphia (\$13.8 million) and Dallas (\$13.9 million) are among the lowest payrolls. Giroux, a 38-year-old striker, joined LA in July on a free transfer from AC Milan. He has a \$2.8 million annualized salary for 2024.

Miami midfielder Sergio Busquets is second in the league



Inter Miami forward Lionel Messi, front, center right, celebrates with his teammates Sergio Busquets, front, center left, Luis Suárez, second row, left, and Drake Callender, center in green, after winning the Supporters' Shield, defeating the New England Revolution at Chase Stadium in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024.

Associated Press

in salary at \$8,499,996 and has \$8,774,996 in total compensation. Toronto winger

Lorenzo Insigne has a \$7.5 million salary and \$15.4 million in total compensation. □



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The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba encourages Responsible Gaming.

Maria Sharapova and the Bryan brothers are elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP Tennis Writer

Maria Sharapova, a five-time Grand Slam singles champion known for plenty of on-court grit and off-court attention, and Bob and Mike Bryan, twins who won a record 16 major titles in men's doubles together, are first-ballot selections for the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

The Newport, Rhode Island-based Hall announced the Class of 2025 on Thursday. Sharapova won at least one championship at each of her sport's four most prestigious events, making her one of 10 women in tennis history to complete a career Grand Slam, and she was the first Russian woman to reach No. 1 in the WTA singles rankings. She retired in 2020 at age 32 after a career that included 15 years in the spotlight, a 15-month doping ban and multiple operations on her right shoulder.



Russia's Maria Sharapova returns the ball to Italy's Karin Knapp during their third round match of the French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros stadium in Paris, May 31, 2008.

Associated Press

In a message posted on social media, Sharapova called herself "incredibly grateful to receive this honor." The Bryan brothers also compiled a career Grand Slam and spent 438 weeks at No. 1 in the ATP doubles rankings. They won a gold medal at the 2012 London Olympics and helped the United States win the 2007 Davis Cup title;

Bob is currently the captain of the American team that will go to Malaga, Spain, for next month's finals to compete for the country's first triumph in that competition since then. Mike Bryan — he's right-handed, and his brother is a lefty — is the career leader with 18 major men's doubles trophies overall; he got two

with Jack Sock while Bob was injured in 2018.

"We are truly humbled and grateful to receive this honor. Though making it to Newport was never our goal, being included among so many of our idols and role models is incredibly special," Bob Bryan wrote in a text message to The Associated Press on Thursday. "Mike and I continue to be best friends, and we feel lucky to have been able to ride this tennis roller-coaster together."

Sharapova became an instant star when she won her first major title at Wimbledon in 2004 at age 17 by beating Serena Williams in the final, then collected the trophies at the U.S. Open in 2006, the Australian Open in 2008 and the French Open in 2012 and 2014. Sharapova helped Russia win the team competition now known as the Billie Jean King Cup in 2008, and she claimed a silver medal in singles at the 2012 Olympics,

losing to Williams in the final. All the while, Sharapova earned millions of dollars more in endorsement deals than prize money.

"There are a couple of sides of me," Sharapova said in an interview with the AP in 2006, shortly before she won the title at Flushing Meadows. "There's the Maria that's a tennis player. There's the Maria that is a normal girl. And there's the Maria who's a businesswoman. And that's where the 'Maria Sharapova brand' comes into play."

At the 2016 Australian Open, Sharapova tested positive for the newly banned drug meldonium and initially was handed a two-year suspension. After appealing to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, Sharapova was given a reduced penalty when it was determined that she bore "less than significant fault" in the case and could not "be considered to be an intentional doper." □